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Birds Have Wings

MRS. W. C. DeLONG
1206 Johnson Drive
Shenandoah, Iowa

I often wonder when I release a bird after banding, if I will ever see it or hear of it again. A White-throated Sparrow banded near Shenandoah, Iowa, on October 23, 1968, was found dead in May, 1969, at Barrhead, Alberta, Canada. I have had very few returns on banded birds with the size band used on this bird. The address, where to send the band numbers, is placed on the inside of the band. A map I have of Alberta shows very few towns north of Barrhead. I was interested in knowing if the place the sparrow was found was in a forest area or plains so I wrote to the name given to me by the banding office. This is the reply I received.

"Regarding the White-throated Sparrow that we found in May, it was found in a flower bed beside our home. It had been killed and eaten by some kind of predator, probably a Sparrow Hawk. All that was left was the head and leg with the band on it. I turned the band in to our wildlife district officer who knew where to forward it. I live on a farm two miles north of Barrhead about eighty miles northwest of Edmonton, Alberta. We live in a mixed farming area which is neither forest nor plains. I did not know what the bird was and I don't know how many come here, or if they nest here or not. I have never seen any more. If you would like more information, I would be pleased to hear from you again." I was interested to know that my banded sparrow went in a northwest direction rather than north of Minnesota where I had always supposed they nested.

I have banded 257 Cedar Waxwings in my backyard at Shenandoah since 1964. Not once have I had one of these waxwings come back wearing a band; therefore, I was much interested in receiving a card from the banding office reporting a waxwing I had banded on March 4, 1968, had been found dead at Fort Worth, Texas, on April 4, 1969. I received this answer from the man who sent in the report.

"Thank you for your recent letter concerning the band which I found on the Cedar Waxwing here in Fort Worth earlier this year. The bird from which we got the band was found by some children in the neighborhood. I am not certain as to what happened to the bird since there was no apparent injury. I only knew where to write from looking inside the band. We checked the band thoroughly since we felt certain it would indicate whom to contact. My family and I found this contact with the banding program to be most interesting. Although we were aware of banding, we had never had any experience with it in any way before. I had, in fact, always assumed it was carried on by a very small group, but it appears to much more widespread. Thank you again for your letter. I am hopeful of sometime learning more of the banding program, particularly as to how the birds are captured and banded."

I have always known that Cedar Waxwings were gypsies, wandering around wherever there was food. But I was surprised to know that one winter he spent the winter in my yard and the next winter went to Texas.

Every bird bander I am sure dreams of the day when he might net a bird wearing a band, not his own. This was my experience on October 19, 1968, when I had two Harris' Sparrows in the net at the same time, both with bands. The first one I read was mine, banded on November 6, 1967. The other one had a number I had never used. I carefully read the band number several times and recorded the number before releasing the bird. Harris' Sparrows winter in our area and since my bird was banded in November, I felt both were wintering birds. I sent the band number to the banding office and patiently awaited a reply. It was not until March, 1969, that I received word that the Harris' Sparrow had been banded at Grand Forks, North Dakota, on May 5, 1968. This is the reply I received from the man who banded the bird.

"I have not been banding very long. I started in 1967 in Maryland while I was in the service and then came back to North Dakota in August, 1967. I am a junior entomologist working in the Microbiology Department at the University of North Dakota at Grand Forks. I am interested in three different problems in birds; finding an easy way of differentiating between the Empidonax flycatchers and the eye color in Red-tailed Hawks and attempting to age Yellow Warblers in the fall. Since I have started banding, I have banded about 1,200 birds of about 120 species. I have very few returns or recoveries, so each one is greatly appreciated. I will be looking for one of your birds this spring. Thanks again."

I am often asked how long birds live. I have a Cardinal in my back yard that was banded on February 3, 1962, and he was still alive on that date in 1970. I do not know how old he was when he was banded, but he is at least 8 years old. I call him Big Boy, the only male Cardinal banded on the right leg in Shenandoah. I have had him back many times to read his band. He always came to the feeder for sunflower seeds just before sunset. One summer he brought a young one to the feeder. He would shell the seeds before giving it to the young one. One day I saw him put the whole seed in the youngster's mouth and fly away. The little one sat there for a long time, not knowing what to do. Finally I saw him crush the seed and help himself. Papa Cardinal never did feed him again, although he would bring him there.

Birds have wings! My White-throated Sparrow travelled far to its nesting place in Alberta, Canada. The Cedar Waxwing spent one winter in yard and the next winter in Texas. The Harris' Sparrow banded in North Dakota stopped over in Shenandoah and probably spent the winter here. I have had banded Blue Jays stay in my yard all year, summer and winter. But there are many migratory Blue Jays, too. One Blue Jay banded September 17, 1963, had an injured wing. Evidently he recovered from this injury which looked as though he had been shot by a gun, for on October 4, 1964, he was found dead at Tonganoxie, Kansas. Tree Sparrows and Slate-colored Juncos banded in my yeard return again after nesting in the far north. Catbirds and Brown Thrashers wearing bands come back from the south to nest again in my yeard. But Big Boy, my Cardinal, has never left me. He drinks from the fountain, rears his young, and comes to the feeder year after year. Maybe someday I will be able to tell my friends how long Cardinals do live.

CHRISTMAS COUNT



The 1969 Christmas Bird Census In Iowa

JOHN FAABORG
777 Pammel Court
AMES, IOWA

As the decade of the sixties was drawing rapidly to a close, Iowa birders were hard at work completing one of the most successful Christmas Bird Censuses ever. A record total of 284 observers (including some observers several times) completed 28 counts and accumulated a record total list of 115 species. As usual, Davenport had the largest total -- this year an astounding 82 species! Other exceptionally high species counts were those at Clinton (70 species), Muscatine (65 species), Princeton-Camanche (a new count with 56 species), Shenandoah (55 species), and Des Moines (55 species). Although his totals were not exceptional this year, Fred J. Pierce's fiftieth consecutive census at Winthrop is a record that will be hard for anyone to top.

In examining the reasons for the many records this year one is immediately drawn to the large numbers of Northern visitors that were seen. Only in 1961 were more Short-eared Owls seen, while Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Red Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, and Snow Bunting were found in unprecedented numbers. Perhaps the most interesting of these was the White-winged Crossbill, which had been seen only once in the last ten years but which was seen at eight stations this year.

Among other noteworthy general occurrences was an increase in the Red-shouldered Hawk, which had reached an all-time low of two birds last year but which was seen six times at five stations in 1969. Another unusual situation existed among the Accipiters where more Goshawks (4) were seen than Sharp-shinned Hawks (3). In a notable increase from last year, nine stations saw Winter Wrens.

The LeConte's Sparrow was seen at Goose Lake on the Jefferson count and appears on the Iowa list for the first time. Other interesting observations include Oldsquaw at Davenport, Swainson's Hawk at Wallingford, 500 Water Pipit at Sioux City, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Northern Shrike at Yellow River Forest, and Lincoln's Sparrow at Shenandoah.

The technique of "calling" owls with a tape recorder that has been used so successfully by Peter Petersen along the Mississippi River was added to the Des Moines, Ames, Boone, and Jefferson counts. The eighteen Screech Owls heard at Ames exceeded the former greatest state total by one and this year's total of 41 Screech Owls in the state probably gives a much better reflection of that species' populations. All of these counts were able to get Screech, Horned, and Barred Owls to respond to the calls from the tape. Any group running a serious count should consider this method.

Unfortunately, some of the counts did not follow the relatively simple ground

rules set up for Christmas Counts. To have any value these counts must be run with a little consistency and it is hoped that those count compilers with faulty counts will do a better job of setting things up next year. Also, at the risk of being called a skeptical young so-and-so, I can not help but doubt that every shrike or meadowlark that is being identified to species is really examined well enough. Winter distribution of these species is still questionable, but a few years of precise observations on Christmas Counts could help clear this problem up. At any rate, although the 1969 Christmas Bird Census was a successful venture, there is plenty of room in places to improve and make this a meaningful census of Iowa birds. To those of you who participated in the many counts that were well run, I can only say, "Keep up the good work in the seventies!"

1. AKRON (8 sq. mile area around Bryant farm.) Dec. 22; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 20 F; wind 15 m.p.h. from S.E. Overcast, 2 inches snow on ground. One observer: Eldon Bryant.

Other species seen during census period: Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Harris' Sparrow, Song Sparrow, and Snow Bunting.

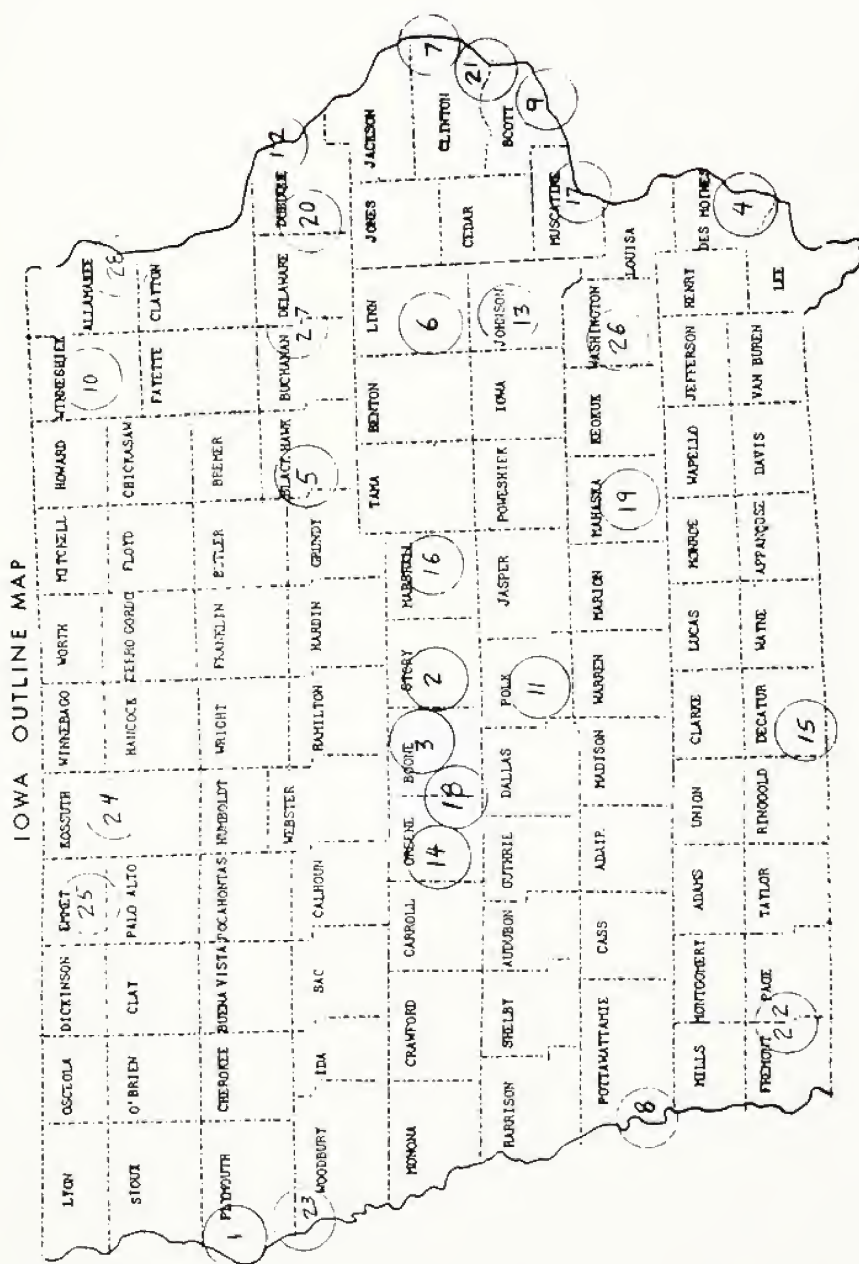
2. AMES (All points within a fifteen mile diameter circle centered on the junction of Interstate 35 and relocated Highway 30 to include Ames, Soper's Mill on the north, east to include Nevada, south to Cambridge, west to one mile west of Boone-Story county line.) Dec. 21; 5:00 a.m. to 11:59 p.m. Temp. 28 - 20 F; wind 5 - 15 m.p.h. from S. E. Sky clear to overcast in afternoon, rivers and ditches 75 percent open, ponds frozen, ground 100 percent snow covered, 4" - 6" deep in open. Observers (29) in 5 parties; plus 10 feeding station contributions. Mrs. W. B. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Bereskin, Roger Birkeland, Mr. and Mrs. Don Carr, Mrs. Percy Carr, Mrs. Ned Disque, Mrs. C. R. Elder, John Faaborg, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hanselmann, Mrs. Edwin Kline, Mrs. C. P. Lechner, Dr. and Mrs. Steve Maloy, Brian Maloy, Dr. and Mrs. Wilmer Miller, Mrs. C. E. Morrisson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rod, Doug Rod, Jim Rod (compiler), Mrs. Ruth Sellers, Cecil Spatcher, Myron Swenson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Trump.

Details of unusual observations: Brown Thrasher at feeder all winter (Mrs. Lechner). Other species seen during census period: Pigeon Hawk observed for several minutes flying over pine grove in company with crows. Falcon shape, size noted, clear throat, streaked breast, barred tail, no definite mustache marks on face. Good light at 50 - 100 yards. Also seen Red-tailed Hawk and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

3. BOONE (All points within a fifteen mile diameter circle to include Boone, Iowa, north to include Ridgeport and Holst State Forest, east to 1½ miles west of Boone - Story county line, south to include Ledges State Park, west to edge of Ogden). Jan. 1; 2:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp 17 - 21 F; wind 0 - 5 m.p.h. from S.W. Clear to partly cloudy, Des Moines River 95 percent frozen, some small creeks open, ground covered with up to 10"-12" of snow. Observers (6) in 2 parties; Roger Birkeland, John Faaborg, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hanselmann, Jim Rod (compiler), Jerry Wetteland.

Details of unusual observations: Oregon Juncos observed by both parties. Three individuals near Ledges State Park in company with Slate-colored. Nearly black head and hood contrasting with brown back very distinct.

4. BURLINGTON (15-mile diameter circle, center ½ mile north of junction of highways 34 and 61, to include part of IAAP, Lock and Dam 18, and country roads around Burlington and neighboring Illinois). Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 22 - 32 F; wind calm. Overcast; snow flurries AM, haze PM, 4 in. snow cover,



Map showing locations of this year's counts. For identification of areas consult the body of the data.

	1. Akron	2. Ames	3. Boone	4. Burlington	5. Cedar Falls	6. Cedar Rapids	7. Clinton	8. Council Bluffs	9. Davenport	10. Decorah	11. Des Moines	12. Dubuque	13. Iowa City	14. Jefferson	15. Lamoni	16. Marshalltown	17. Muscatine	18. Ogden	19. Oskaloosa	20. Pine Hollow	21. Princeton-Camanche	22. Shenandoah	23. Sioux City	24. Union Slough	25. Wallingford	26. West Chester	27. Winthrop	28. Yellow River Forest	TOTAL NUMBERS	
Pied-billed Grebe																													3	
Double-crested Cormorant				1			1																500	1					1	500
Great Blue Heron																						500	400						100	
Snow Goose				2178																	2	158	7500	8000					8	24819
Black Duck				2					52	7	802	283	4																51	7
Black Duck									2			3	5																2	1
Redhead																													2	2
Ring-necked Duck									1		5	1										1							1	4
Redhead									1																				2	2
Canvasback									2																				2	2
Lesser Scaup Duck				6					3		1	3	3																5	1
Common Goldeneye				1					311																				27	327
Bufflehead									1																				2	2
White-winged Scoter									13																				2	2
Hooded Merganser									45																				20	14
Common Merganser																													3	5
Red-breasted Merganser									3																				7	64
Sashawk																													4	4
Sharp-shinned Hawk																													2	219
Cooper's Hawk									1																				6	6
Red-tailed Hawk			4	7	2		2		28	35	8	7	6																1	1
Red-shouldered Hawk										1																			3	3
Swainson's Hawk																													1	40
Rough-legged Hawk			2	2					4																				3	1
Bald Eagle				19					25			3																	46	1
Marsh Hawk				3					2		2																		3	3
Peregrine Falcon									12		6																		1	1
Sparrow Hawk			2	3				3													3								3	1
Bobwhite									38																				500	500
Ruffed Grouse				62					84	4	25																		24	8
Gray Partridge	7	49	9		67	103	71																						14	14
Wild Turkey																													2	2
American Coot									8																				18	18
Killdeer									1																				17	17
Common Snipe				16				6	1																				58	58
Herring Gull				3				13	323																				396	396
Ring-billed Gull								1	339																				370	370
Mourning Dove	1	29		96	4	208	267	3	363	32	32	5	17	4	124	14	103	11	56	7	92	67	4	3				43	1527	
Screech Owl	1	18	3	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	3	2	1										50	50
Great Horned Owl		9	1	1	1	1	2	3	8	1		3	4	4	1		2	2	1										19	19
Barred Owl		2	1	5			4	4	2																				57	57
Long-eared Owl	6	1	1				7	7	3								15	6			21								1	1
Short-eared Owl																														
Saw-whet Owl		3	1	2			1	1	6	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1				2	1						38	38
Belted Kingfisher		18	6	17	4	13	10	9	29	6	32						36	3	4		15	32	17	1					4	4
Red-shafted Flicker	3								1	1																				
Red-bellied Woodpecker																														
Red-bellied Woodpecker		21	16	28	3	15	15		29	25	28	9	10	7	17	12	19	2	2	6	10	13	2						1	318

Red-headed Woodpecker	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		3		5	10	22	13		21	86	3	6	6	1	5	17	9	1	3	3	17	1	8	23		4	3	3
Hairy Woodpecker		5	17	16	8	9	7	2	90	15	64	15	31	1	36	34	14	1	3	9	7	1	24	18		8	1	15
Downy Woodpecker		5	36	22	15	18	48	41	7	20	15	57	205	56	32	5	56	32	20	43	132	149	76	8		9	2	5
Horned Lark		6	39	49	35	15	19	42	47	4	4	54	30	32	24	126	68	41	5	8	10	45	25	35		7	38	8
Blue Jay		6	73	16	55	137	83	142	7	96	183	33	34	50	58	157	82	11	23	21	34	47	53		29	42	9	30
Common Crow		10	103	30	129	40	69	118	294	5	164	101	181	33	33	24	125	96	16	13	1	34	47	53		29	42	6
Black-capped Chickadee		3	154	39	137	40	69	118	294	5	164	101	181	33	33	24	125	96	16	13	1	34	47	53		29	42	24
Tufted Titmouse		3	154	39	137	40	69	118	294	5	164	101	181	33	33	24	125	96	16	13	1	34	47	53		29	42	24
White-throated Nuthatch		15	51	25	17	18	25	18	5	120	2	39	9	2	14	4	32	27	37	13	6	2	23	11	16	5	6	1
Red-breasted Nuthatch		15	51	25	17	18	25	18	5	120	2	39	9	2	14	4	32	27	37	13	6	2	23	11	16	5	6	1
Brown Creeper		19	15	17	3	6	10	12	5	24	1	27	5	4	3	2	4	6	3	17	3	3	7			2	2	3
Winter Wren							2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	4
Carolina Wren							2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	4
Mockingbird							1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			1	1	6
Brown Thrasher							1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			1	1	6
Robin							1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			1	1	6
Eastern Bluebird							1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			1	1	6
Golden-crowned Kinglet		1	11	7	1	1	13		6	2	13	3		3	5	8	1					10	6			2		1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet																												1
Water Pipit																												1
Cedar Waxwing		20	60	2		9	2								20													1
Northern Shrike																												1
Loggerhead Shrike																												1
Shrike species																												1
Starling		2	280	2902	605	98	2530	498	1516	175	2530	1504	283	250	164	860	1342	32	255	103	1114	439	540	60	25	135	200	138
House Sparrow		8	770	280	2902	605	98	2530	498	1516	175	2530	1504	283	250	164	860	1342	32	255	103	1114	439	540	60	25	135	200
Eastern Meadowlark		1440	590	1349	829	29	20	20	1095	2220	1375	1180	542	313	350	510	350	2056	129	287	280	1033	1000	55		27	285	200
Western Meadowlark																												1
Meadowlark species																												1
Yellow-headed Blackbird		26	23				25		19	1	33	15	9	152														1
Red-winged Blackbird		2					3	4	25	23	1	4	2	4														1
Rusty Blackbird							361	611	614	23	381	1																1
Brewer's Blackbird							51	7	114	2	381	1																1
Common Grackle		9					38	4	110	2	10	9	27	221	101	199	2	2	1									1
Brown-headed Cowbird							196	19	311	290	163	29	53	27	221	101	199	2	2	1								1
Cardinal		76	35	278	16	170	196	3	3	4	1	39	23	10	11	3	35	45	6									2
Evening Grosbeak							16	2	23	1	39	23	10	11	3	35	45	6										2
Purple Finch		13	94	5	23	1	16	2	23	1	39	23	10	11	3	35	45	6										2
Common Redpoll							64	20	2	18	15	30	28	8	46	102	102	11	7	128	31	90						1
Pine Siskin							46	505	27	135	38	5	1	1	130	12	4											218
American Goldfinch							52	104	9	8																		36
Red Crossbill		2					1																					6
White-winged Crossbill																												6
Rufous-sided Towhee							1																					1
Savannah Sparrow																												1
Leconte's Sparrow																												9
State-colored Junco		108	640	665	635	285	307	963	295	933	423	1294	53	81	260	289	1120	916	37	240	38	568	759	1000	20	58	180	100
Oregon Junco																												76
Tree Sparrow		143	52	161	249	3	51	156	300	561	63	305	4	27	106	713	48	978	52	59	26	652	1494	200	17	35	23	200
Field Sparrow																												1
Harris' Sparrow																												1
White-crowned Sparrow																												1
White-throated Sparrow																												1
Fox Sparrow																												1
Lincoln's Sparrow																												1
Swamp Sparrow																												1
Song Sparrow																												1
Lapland Longspur																												1
Snow Bunting																						</						

•• No estimate made

Mississippi 90 percent ice covered. Observers (8) in 4 parties; Charles and Mrs. Lowell Fuller, Jerome Jackson, John and Mrs. Ory Lowther, Peter Lowther (compiler), Jack McLane, and Mrs. Paul Niemann.

Details of unusual observations: The Snow Buntings were all in one flock that remained in the same general area during the count period (at least). The Fullers (who saw them on the count day) thought there were more present than the estimate indicates. Others (including compiler) saw them. Other species seen during census period: Canada Goose, Cooper's Hawk, Short-eared Owl, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin.

5. CEDAR FALLS (Black Hawk Park, Beaver Creek, Snag Creek, Cedar Heights, and other Cedar River areas; Washington Park, College Gardens; Robertson Bird Sanctuary; river bottom forest 45 percent, upland forest 15 percent, savannas 10 percent, fields and prairies, 20 percent). Dec. 20; 7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Temp. -5 to 16 F; wind 3-10 m.p.h. Mostly cloudy, ground snow covered, ponds frozen, streams mostly frozen. Observers (10) in 3 parties; Berneda Collins, George Dodd, Larry Fobian, Ruth Halliday, Russell Hays, Mabel Immerzeel, Fred Knoll, Margaret Knoll, Victoria Madsen (compiler), Florence Velie.

Details of unusual observations: This is the first time Snow Buntings have been seen on a Cedar Falls Christmas Count.

6. CEDAR RAPIDS (15 mile diameter, circle centered on the Federal Building). Dec. 27; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp 6 to 24 F; wind 10 m.p.h. from SE. Overcast; snow cover 10 - 12"; moderate snowfall beginning 2:30 p.m. Observers (27) in 5 parties; Mr. and Mrs. Lester Beam, Mr. and Mrs. James Clifton, Lorretta Clifton, Esther Copp, Eddie Fisher, Dr. Phyllis Ford, Dr. Karl Goellner, Mrs. Gus Groth, Eldon Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Layton (compiler), Susan Layton, Mrs. Robert Liljedahl, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Marks, Mrs. Forrest Millikin, Tom Morralin, Lillian Serbousek, Patricia Smith, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Robert Stewart Vane, Myra Willis, Mr. and Mrs. Aldrich Zobac.

Details of unusual observations: Red Crossbills at three different feeders in town reported by Dr. McCabe, Joe Reilly, and Dr. Kessler. One White-winged Crossbill at a feeder reported by David Kessler - a senior biology student. One Bufflehead on Cedar River. Seven Red-breasted Mergansers on Cedar Lake. One Screech Owl at Prairie Creek Bridge. Other species seen during census period: Lesser Scaup Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Rough-legged Hawk, Short-Eared Owl, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Thrasher, Rufous-sided Towhee.

7. CLINTON (15 mile diameter circle, center Elk River Junction, same as previous years). Dec. 27; 5:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp. 10 - 30 F; wind 2 - 15 m.p.h. from SE. Overcast, ground fog in early A.M., 6 - 8" drifted snow on ground, river 90 percent ice covered. Observers (12) in 4 parties; Elton Fawks, Eleanor King, Fred, Jonathan and Maurice Lesher, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Clarence Sherman, Paul Van Nieuwenhuysse, Norman Ward, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations; Cormorant seen at 100 yds. with 20X scope, (PCP). Bufflehead (FL) and White-winged Scoter (EF) carefully observed at Lock No. 13, the former in the A.M., the latter in the P.M.

8. COUNCIL BLUFFS (Lake Manawa South to U.S. Highway No. 34 covered as part of Omaha Bird Count). Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Temp. 15 F; wind 15 m.p.h. from SE. Snow entire day - 10" snow on ground. Observers (8) in 3 parties; Grover Bramel, Hal Chase, C. E. Heaney, Glenn H. DeDioyt (compiler), Andy

Peters, Peter J. Peters, Roger De Silvestro, E. Thomas Stacey.

9. DAVENPORT (15 mile diameter circle, center toll house of Memorial wind 6 - 12 m.p.h. from W. Overcast, light snow in early A.M., ground covered by 1 - 3" snow, river 80 percent ice covered. Observers (29) in 16 parties; Mrs. Fred Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Atwood, Lewis Blevins, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dau, John Engstrom, Elton Fawks, Rev. Phillip Frazier, Mr. and Mrs. Jake Frink, Don Haugen, Erwin Jorgenson, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. M. Lonnecker, V. McDonald, Don McIver, Mrs. Frank Marquis, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Don Price, Ernie and April Saddler, Al Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: Oldsquaw carefully observed, had been in area for several weeks (WML), White-winged Scoters well observed, twelve at East Moline (EF), one seen at the same time in Davenport (PCP). Goshawks all at Fairmont Cem. Davenport and of noticeably different plumages (WD). Other species seen during census period: Cedar Waxwing.

10. DECORAH (Fifteen mile diameter circle center NE corner Sec. 24, T99N, R8W). Dec. 27; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 10-21 F; wind 5-10 m.p.h. from E-SE. Cloudy, 10-14 in. snow cover, waters 75 percent frozen. Observers (12) in 3 parties; Florence Albright, Laura Amdahl, Francis Arness, Chris Bateman, Dorothy Brooks, Dick Davis, Cletus Houdek, O. M. Hovde, Darwin Koenig (compiler), Pat Koenig, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Rohm.

Details of unusual observations: The Peregrine Falcon was observed both perched and in flight. The mustache, falcon shape and flight, crow size, and brown back (denoting immature) were observed. The Fox and White-throated Sparrows were closely observed and all field marks noted.

11. DES MOINES (Denman Woods, Wakonsa, Flint Access, Fisher's Lake, Yeader Creek, Laurel Hill Cemetery, Greenwood and Ashworth Parks, Walnut Woods, Clark's Wood, Brenton's Slough, Sycamore Park, Camp Dodge, and roadsides). Dec. 20; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 12-26 F; wind 4-12 m.p.h. from S to SE. Cloudy, rivers open, lakes frozen except where kept open by waterfowl. Ground covered with 2 inches old snow. Observers (21) in 5 parties; with 2 at feeders; Mrs. A. J. Binsfeld, W. A. Boller, Mrs. Dwight Brooke, Mrs. J. K. Brown, Woodward H. Brown (compiler), Ruth Buckles, Ruth Chapman, Beth Clampit, Frank Dunham, John Faaborg, Oliver Graves, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Haskell, Joe Kennedy, Jeff Kern, Dick Mooney, Dr. and Mrs. Harold Peasley, Jim Rod, Virginia Van Liew, Mrs. Lurene Wartens, Mary Ellen Wartens, Tom Wonderlin. Details of unusual observations: Brown Thrashers at feeders for some time.

12. DUBUQUE (Linwood Cemetery, John Deere, Sherril, Durango, Peosta Valley, Dubuque's Grave, Miss. River and Sloughs). Dec. 27; 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Temp. 10-25 F; wind 5 m.p.h. from SE. Overcast to cloudy; river open at dam, bridge and Grave; 13" old snow on ground. Observers (8) in 2 parties; Frieda Crossley, George Crossley (compiler, Warren Finch, Patricia Heidenreich, Joan Higley, Delbert Ludwig, Phyllis Shultz, Karen Theisen.

Details of unusual observations: Common Snipe viewed near spring and in flight; Oregon Junco and White-throated Sparrow at feeder all December. Other species seen during census period: Cooper's Hawk, Cedar Waxwing.

13. IOWA CITY (usual 15-mile circle centered near North Liberty, including Iowa City, Lake MacBride, Coralville Reservoir, and west). Dec. 21; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 24-28 F; wind, light. Light snow in a.m. (2 in. over 4 in. old snow), overcast in p.m. Light SE wind in a.m. shifting to NW in p.m., Lake and reservoir frozen, river open below dam. Observers (13) in 2 parties; plus feeders; Ann and

Seddie Cogswell, Tom Cullen, Mr. and Mrs. Greenleaf, Mrs. Halmi, Bob Hedges, Bob Hulbary, Bill Kent, Fred Kent (compiler), Tom Kent, Mrs. LeVois, Jim Taylor, Amanda Woods. Other species seen during census period: Snowy Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, White-winged Crossbill.

14. JEFFERSON (7½ mile radius centered 5 miles west of Jefferson on Highway 30: includes Jefferson, Goose Lake, and Dunbar Slough. Dec. 26; 4:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp 4-14 F; wind 5 m.p.h. from NW. Skies clear; ten inches of snow on ground; river 90 percent ice covered, lakes 100 percent ice covered. Observers (3) in one party; David Bucklin, John Faaborg (compiler), James Rod.

Details of unusual observations: LeConte's Sparrow seen in weed patch at Goose Lake -- all field marks noted (JF).

15. LAMONI (Parts of a 15 mile diameter circle centered 2½ miles east of Lamoni at the intersection of I-35 and U.S. 69. County roads, farmland, riverbank, and deciduous woods). Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 16-25 F; wind, calm. Coat of sleet on vegetation and trees, ground frozen, covered with layer of ice and two inches of snow; ponds and lakes frozen, streams 90 percent frozen. Observers (10) in 3 parties: Mrs. Dean Ballantyne, Mrs. Paul Elswick, J. Donald Gillaspey (compiler), Jim, Bill, and David Gillaspey, Mrs. Dorothy Rauch, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Silver.

Details of unusual observations: Red-breasted Nuthatch and Evening Grosbeaks observed at a feeder of Mrs. Dorothy Rauch. Towhee observed by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Silver on the road to Nine Eagles State Park. Other species seen during census period: Sparrow Hawk, Baltimore Oriole, Common Redpoll, Lapland Longspur. (The oriole, in female or immature plumage, was found in the Gillaspey cattle lot on Dec. 29. It was picked up and taken into the house, where it drank water and ate a few bread crumbs. It died in about three hours. We had had a heavy sleet storm two days before. It probably was doing OK until then).

16. MARSHALLTOWN (15 mile diameter circle around Marshalltown). Dec. 27; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp 10 - 22 F; wind 3 to 8 m.p.h. from NW. Cloudy and overcast; ten inches snow on ground, started snowing at 1:30 p.m. -- two inches additional. Observers (20) in 6 parties; Wayne Britten, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Croskrey, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Eige, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Glasgow, Mrs. L. R. Grimes, Mrs. Richard Huff, John King, Mrs. Ruth Knights, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Lawrence, Mr. and Mrs. James Maish, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Savage (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wignall, Ruth Zorn.

Details of unusual observations: An Arctic Towhee has been seen daily at the Clifford Glasgow residence for approximately four weeks. Red Crossbills have been observed many times at the local cemetery. Other species seen during census period: White-winged Crossbill.

17. MUSCATINE (15 mile diameter circle, center Lock and Dam 16 same as previous years). Dec. 20; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 12-25 F; wind 3-5 m.p.h. from S. Mostly clear, ground covered by 1-3" snow, river 85 percent ice covered. Observers (12) in 3 parties; Mrs. Wm. Atwood, Elton Fawks, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Frink, Rev. Phillip Frazier, Mark Henderson, John Lonacker, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Ernie Saddler, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: Goshawk and Oregon Junco carefully observed, all field marks noted (WA, EF, Mr. and Mrs. WW).

18. OGDEN (12 mile radius around my home, including roadsides, pastures, creek bottoms, woods, etc.). Dec. 29; 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 18-28 F; wind 6 m.p.h. from NW. Fairly calm, cold, ground covered with snow, creeks frozen. One

observer: Jim Keenan.

Details of unusual observations: Robin seen on several different days. This was the most Short-eared Owls I have seen in one day here. Other species seen during census period: Barred Owl, Tufted Titmouse, Cedar Waxwing, White-throated Sparrow.

19. OSKALOOSA (15 mile diameter centered on Mahaska County Courthouse in Oskaloosa). Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 0-20 F; wind, none. Clear, ground covered by 2" to 3" of snow, all water frozen. Observers (2) in one party; Mr. and Mrs. Keith D. Layton.

Details of unusual observations: Cardinals seemed to be concentrated in flocks of unusually large numbers in protected areas.

20. PINE HOLLOW (15 mile diameter circle Farley, Iowa to and including White Pine Hollow Preserve). Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Temp 10-28 F; wind 8 m.p.h. from SE. Mostly overcast, one-half hour sunshine, 15" old snow. Observers (2) in one party; George Crossley (compiler), Howard R. Higley.

Details of unusual observations: Mallards in spring-fed pond.

21. PRINCETON-CAMANCHE (15 mile diameter circle centered at Folletts, Iowa, including Camanche, Low Moor, McCausland and Princeton, Iowa; Albany and Cordova, Ill.) Dec. 26; 5:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp. 11-20 F; wind 4-12 m.p.h. from SW. Overcast, snow flurries, clearing in P. M. ground covered by 6-8" old drifted snow, river 98 percent ice covered. Observers (8) in 2 parties; Allan Carlson, Mark Henderson, Mary Lou Petersen, Peter C. Petersen (compiler), Ethel Volk, Norman Ward, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wickstrom.

Details of unusual observations: Nineteen of the Short-eared Owls were flushed from a roost area along $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of a drainage ditch near Low Moor at dawn. (MH, MLP, PCP, NW).

22. SHENANDOAH (Points within a 15-mile diameter circle centered at Farragut; included Riverton area; orchards and woods 45 percent, coniferous woodland (including cemetery) 10 percent, farmland and prairie 45 percent). Dec. 20; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 16-29 F; wind 4-10 m.p.h. from SE. Mostly cloudy, ground clear, river partly open, spring-fed streams open, others frozen. Observers (7) in 4 parties; Mrs. Robert Bordner, Mrs. Francis Braley (compiler), Mrs. Wallace Delong, Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Mrs. Donald Walters, Mrs. Emmett Zollars.

Details of unusual observations: Water Pipit observed at close range by Mrs. Delong and Mrs. Zollars noting field marks, walk, and flight. Other species seen during census period: Short-Eared Owl, Robin, Lapland Longspur.

23. SIOUX CITY (Fifteen mile diameter circle, center Sioux City Auditorium, same as previous years). Dec. 20; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp 22-31 F; wind 14 m.p.h. from SE. Ground mostly bare; Missouri River open, lakes and streams partially open. Observers (13) in 5 parties; Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis Campbell, Mrs. Lyle Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell M. Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Kirkpatrick, Mr. and Mrs. George Marsh, Robert L. Nickolson (compiler), Dr. Morgan C. Webb.

Details of unusual observations: Water Pipits seen south of Sioux City in a plowed field along the Missouri River. All field marks and voice noted. (JC & RN). Other species seen during census period: Baltimore Oriole, Purple Finch, Red Crossbill, Rufous-sided Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow. (The oriole was observed on Dec. 27 at the feeder during a snow by Mrs. Maurice Stephenson. The bird had been seen prior to the count several times).

24. UNION SLOUGH WILDLIFE REFUGE (All points within a 15-mile

diameter circle, center 2,077 acre waterfowl refuge 5½ miles west of Titonka, Iowa; marsh and water 50 percent; upland grasses and mixed elm, cottonwood, willow and oak thickets 40 percent; cropland 10 percent, Dec. 31; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 22-13 F; wind 5 m.p.h. from NW. Clear skies. 20" of snow on ground, all refuge pools 100 percent frozen. One Observer, Robert H. Stratton, Jr.

25. WALLINGFORD (High, Ingham and East Swan Lakes and surrounding areas). Dec. 20; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp. 12-23 F; wind 15 m.p.h. from SE. Cloudy, snow flurries, 4 inches snow on ground. Observers (3) in 1 party; Verlyn Swede, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Wolden (compiler).

Details of unusual observations: Fox Sparrows seen in weed patch along the road. Saw-whet Owl in thick row of spruce at High Lake Cemetery. Other species seen during census period: Horned Lark.

26. WEST CHESTER (10 mile radius: Crooked Creek and Dutch Creek bottoms; country roads; fence rows). Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. mid-20's wind 8 m.p.h. from NE. Overcast; occasional snow flurries; 8-10 inches of snow. Observers (2) in one party; Kathy Fisher (compiler), Mrs. Richard Fisher.

27. WINTHROP (Roadsides in vicinity of Winthrop in Buchanan County and a side trip to Backbone State Park, Delaware County). Dec. 26; 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 5-10 F; wind light, from SW. Overcast and light snow in the air until 10 a.m., then clear, 8 in. of snow on the level; roads plowed out, but many deep drifts on side. Observers (4) in one party; Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Pierce (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Paul Pierce.

Details of unusual observations: The Purple Finches were feeding in a large flock in a field of weeds near the road. It was the largest flock we had ever seen. They would fly up at intervals, wheel, and return to the same area. About one bird in twenty had the pink front and head, the others being immatures and females. They were studied with binoculars, and the heavy bills, and distinctive plumage pattern were noted, as well as the sharp chipping calls of the birds in flight.

28. YELLOW RIVER FOREST (Fifteen mile diameter circle, center NE corner Sec. 8, T96N, R3W). Dec. 29; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Temp. 14-24 F; wind 10-15 m.p.h. from SE. Cloudy, 10-14 in. snow cover, waters 75 percent frozen. Observers (2) in one party; Darwin Koenig (compiler), Pat Koenig.

Details of unusual observations: The Ruby-crowned Kinglet was with the Golden-crowned Kinglets. It was well observed at close range, the broken white eyering was well noted.

BANDING REPORT



Iowa Bird Banding Summary For 1969

DEAN M. ROOSA
GOLDFIELD, IOWA

This year we welcome two new banders to the Iowa region. Rev. Phillip Frazier, Rock Island, Illinois, got his permit late in 1969 and did some banding in

Iowa. He plans to specialize on the Sparrow Hawk. Mr. Emmet Zollars, Shenandoah, is now a sub-permittee of Mrs. W. C. DeLong.

Pete Petersen again led all individual banders with close to 3,000 birds; the Diggs were a close second with over 2,800. Totals were down by several thousand birds from 1968, due to decreased activities by Pete and the Rineharts. Pete now has ten years of banding data from Pine Hill. The biggest news in Iowa banding this year was the netting of a Chuck-will's-widow by Judge Charles and Arleen Ayres. This is the first record of this species being banded in Iowa. This is the only species that made its appearance on the Iowa list for the first time. Diggs again did a nice job with Bank Swallows and Tree Sparrows, Faaborg with LeConte's Sparrows, Pete with Red-winged Blackbirds and shorebirds, Laytons with Bluebirds, the Conservation Commission and Stratton and workers with Mourning Doves. Notable was the absence from the list of several species. Disturbing is the fact that no Cooper's Hawks were banded, suggesting, perhaps, a further decline in this fine raptore. Say's Phoebe was conspicuously absent, probably due to poor nesting success. A number of shorebirds failed to become entangled in our nets.

It would be most interesting to see the effects of massed effort by banders in Iowa toward a few species whose status is uncertain or declining. In a few years we might possibly have a large quantity of information regarding coloration, weight, local densities, measurements, returns, recoveries, etc. This might be a better approach than the hit-or-miss banding as we know it now. If any of us has a project, we should let other banders know of it; the closer we work together, the more fruitful our results will be. We have a great research tool in banding and some of should be utilizing it in this regard.

Following is a list of Iowa banders and the number of species and individuals they banded in Iowa in 1969:

Judge and Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa	96	1,479
Gladys Black, Pleasantville	24	112
Dr. Myrle Burk, Waterloo	inactive this year.	
Conservation Commission	14	6,373
Mrs. W. C. DeLong, Shenandoah	73	885
Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh Diggs, Hamburg	104	2,835
John Faaborg, ISU, Ames	27	133
Rev. Phillip Frazier, Rock Island, Ill.	5	5
Mr. and Mrs. Keith D. Layton, Oskaloosa ..	109	1,706
Peter C. Petersen, Davenport	118	2,990
Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rinehart, Marshalltown	55	282
Dean M. Roosa, Goldfield	15	39
Robert H. Stratton, Jr. Mgr. Union Slough, Titonka	3	415
Mrs. Donald Walters, Essex	48	198
Totals	171	17,432

Least Bittern	1
Canada Goose	53
Mallard	2,284
Black Duck	6
Pintail	11

Green-winged Teal	3
Blue-winged Teal	1,758
Shoveler	24
Wood Duck	544
Redhead	80

Ring-necked Duck	1	Bank Swallow	909
Canvasback	3	Rough-winged Swallow	65
Lesser Scaup	1	Barn Swallow	66
Ruddy Duck	6	Cliff Swallow	8
Turkey Vulture	1	Purple Martin	9
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	Blue Jay	208
Red-tailed Hawk	18	Common Crow	10
Broad-winged Hawk	2	Black-capped Chickadee	157
Swainson's Hawk	2	Tufted Titmouse	46
Sparrow Hawk	17	White-breasted Nuthatch	40
Bob-white	7	Red-breasted Nuthatch	2
Virginia Rail	1	Brown Creeper	53
Killdeer	6	House Wren	237
Spotted Sandpiper	1	Winter Wren	13
Solitary Sandpiper	2	Carolina Wren	5
Lesser Yellow-legs	2	Long-billed Marsh Wren	2
Pectoral Sandpiper	7	Catbird	516
Least Sandpiper	4	Brown Thrasher	223
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	Robin	410
Mourning Dove	2,048	Wood Thrush	19
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	12	Hermit Thrush	54
Black-billed Cuckoo	17	Swainson's Thrush	416
Screech Owl	10	Gray-cheeked Thrush	120
Great Horned Owl	8	Veery	13
Barred Owl	1	Eastern Bluebird	224
Saw-whet Owl	7	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	2
Chuck-will's-widow	1	Golden-crowned Kinglet	117
Whip-poor-will	4	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	438
Common Nighthawk	8	Cedar Waxwing	53
Chimney Swift	6	Loggerhead Shrike	23
Ruby-throated Hummingbird ..	4	Starling	37
Belted Kingfisher	2	White-eyed Vireo	3
Yellow-shafted Flicker	103	Bell's Vireo	7
Red-bellied Woodpecker	12	Yellow-throated Vireo	4
Red-headed Woodpecker	44	Solitary Vireo	46
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	9	Red-eyed Vireo	110
Hairy Woodpecker	21	Philadelphia Vireo	17
Downy Woodpecker	100	Warbling Vireo	17
Eastern Kingbird	10	Black-and-white Warbler	45
Western Kingbird	2	Prothonotary Warbler	1
Crested Flycatcher	13	Golden-winged Warbler	6
Eastern Phoebe	62	Blue-winged Warbler	4
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	43	Tennessee Warbler	160
Acadian Flycatcher	21	Orange-crowned Warbler	89
Traill's Flycatcher	36	Nashville Warbler	208
Least Flycatcher	90	Parula Warbler	5
Eastern Wood Pewee	23	Yellow Warbler	37
Empidonax Sp. Flycatcher	40	Magnolia Warbler	51
Olive-sided Flycatcher	3	Cape May Warbler	1
Horned Lark	3	Black-throated Blue Warbler ..	1
Tree Swallow	1	Myrtle Warbler	160

Black-throated Green Warbler	5	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	157
Blackburnian Warbler	2	Blue Grosbeak	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	23	Indigo Bunting	116
Bay-breasted Warbler	7	Dickeissel	23
Black-poll Warbler	9	Evening Grosbeak	26
Pine Warbler	1	Purple Finch	274
Palm Warbler	10	Pine Siskin	42
Ovenbird	83	American Goldfinch	744
Northern Waterthrush	79	White-winged Crossbill	1
Louisiana Waterthrush	3	Rufous-sided Towhee	15
Kentucky Warbler	4	Savannah Sparrow	10
Mourning Warbler	21	Grasshopper Sparrow	2
Yellowthroat	155	LeConte's Sparrow	26
Wilson's Warbler	54	Vesper Sparrow	2
Canada Warbler	20	Lark Sparrow	1
American Redstart	73	Slate-colored Sparrow	486
House Sparrow	8	Oregon Junco	4
Eastern Meadowlark	15	Tree Sparrow	228
Western Meadowlark	9	Chipping Sparrow	33
Yellow-headed Blackbird	4	Clay-colored Sparrow	1
Red-winged Blackbird	181	Field Sparrow	31
Orchard Oriole	8	Harris' Sparrow	93
Baltimore Oriole	85	White-crowned Sparrow	17
Rusty Blackbird	3	White-throated Sparrow	314
Brewer's Blackbird	4	Fox Sparrow	39
Common Grackle	298	Lincoln's Sparrow	146
Brown-headed Cowbird	36	Swamp Sparrow	32
Scarlet Tanager	8	Song Sparrow	87
Summer Tanager	1		
Cardinal	182	Total Individuals	17,432

May Convention To Be Held At Mt. Pleasant

Birds: a world view.

This will be the theme of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union 48th annual convention to be held May 15, 16, and 17 at Mount Pleasant. Hosting the gathering will be Dr. R. William Poulter of the Iowa Wesleyan College faculty who will be assisted by the Iowa Wesleyan Biology Club and by members of the Burlington Bird Club.

IOU members find that spring birding on Iowa's eastern shore is always a rewarding activity, and this year's convention will provide ample opportunities to gather such regards. A varied array of field trips will be open to members and guests.

Papers to be presented will bring members up to date in the world of ornithology and the sport of birding. As a preview the program committee announces that these major subjects will be discussed during the Friday evening and

Saturday sessions:

- Modern optical aids, the latest in birding hardware
- An emerging major birding area in the state of Iowa
- Naturalists' observations in southern coastal regions of the United States; in Manitoba, Canada; in Bahia, Brazil; and on the islands of New Zealand.

After the Saturday banquet, Dr. Milton Weller of Iowa State University will present a report on birds of the Polar regions. Dr. Weller, an ornithologist of national repute, has made special studies of both the Arctic and Antarctic areas and has recently returned from field studies in Antarctic.

Detailed program information, registration forms and an accomodations list will be included in an April mailing to all members.

The call is clear, the invitations are ready.

We'll meet you in Mount Pleasant! Joseph Brown.

FIELD REPORTS

December, although only slightly colder than normal, brought early snows which covered the ground for the last three weeks. January was one of the coldest on record and it was late in the month before most of the snow had gone. The number of northern visitors this winter has been extraordinary. There have been years in which a species has been unusually plentiful, but this winter there have been both Red and White-winged Crossbills, Redpolls, and Pine Siskins in abundance with at least the usual number of Purple Finches. However, Evening Grosbeaks, which last year went as far south as Tennessee and Texas at least, have been scarce in Iowa.

We are indebted to Jim Clifton for the new heading which shows the areas in which there are contributors to Field Reports. The cooperation of these observers has been excellent but as we enter Field Reports' second decade there are many areas not being covered. It is hoped additional observers will contribute their observations. Notes should be submitted not later than 25 May, and 20 September, November and February for the June, September, December and March issues, respectively. The sighting of any extreme rarity should, of course, be written up in detail as a separate note and sent to the Editor.

Loons, Grebes, Cormorants. A Common Loon was on Cedar Lake the first half of November (LS). A Pied-billed Grebe was sighted on 15 February, and a Double-crested Cormorant on 27 December (PCP).

Swans, Ducks. Rock Creek Lake had 5 Whistling Swans on 15 November (MS). Mallards at Sioux City left when the January cold wave arrived (DH), and the same was true of the 15,000 at Red Rock Refuge (GB). A flock of 10 Gadwalls was seen on 15 February (PCP). There were 100 Goldeneyes on the Missouri River (DH), but the 300-350 at Davenport were considered fewer than usual (PCP). On 8 November Dr. Burk saw 30 Buffleheads on the Wapsipinicon (TH). There were several sightings of the Oldsquaw, while White-winged Scoters were seen and Davenport and Clinton (PCP) with 12 near Moline reported by Elton Fawks (fide PCP). Common Mergansers were thought fewer (PCP).

Hawks. A Mourning Dove which was killed and practically devoured in the Peasleys' yard in Des Moines was assumed to have been the victim of a Sharp-shinned Hawk which has been haunting their yard. One of the Krider's race of the Red-tailed was identified (PK). There were thought quite a few Rough-legged (JK), but fewer (EB) and only one seen (FK). An adult and several immature Golden Eagles were seen at Red Rock (GB). Marsh Hawks were thought more than usual (DG, EB) with 3 reports at Sioux City (DH). A Pigeon Hawk was well seen at Ames on 28 December (JR).

Bobwhite, Pheasant, Partridge. Bobwhites were considered quite abundant (DG). Ring-necked Pheasants were thought in good numbers (DG, JK, LS, EB) but the downward trend was thought continuing (DH). A few small flocks of Gray Partridge were seen (EB).

Shorebirds. A Coot was seen on Cedar Lake in January and February (LS). Wintering Snipe are reported (FK, Wm.B, LS, PCP). Three Dunlin in November were late (FK). A late report mentions 12 Avocets on 23 October at Red Rock Refuge (GB). A Northern Phalarope was seen early in November at Rock Creek Lake (MS).

Owls. The recorded call of the Screech Owl when played back has shown this owl to be common at Ames (JF). Reports of the Long-eared are conflicting: only 1 (FK); none, although usual at Ames (JF); more than usual (EB); first since 1964 (JK); and 3 in Polk Co., the first in several years (HP). Short-eared reports also are varied: regularly at Jefferson and Ames (JF); 2-4 regularly (DG); some large concentrations with 19 in a quarter mile on 26 December (PCP); seen quite often until early February with 6 in 1 mile (JK); plentiful in Lucas and Mills Cos. (PDK); almost none, (EB); and 1 record (PL). No Saw-whets were found at Ames (JF) or the Iowa City area (FK).

Woodpeckers. These were generally down (DH), and even the Hairy and Downy were missing from feeders (MK). A Red-shafted Flicker was seen by Mrs. Broley and Mrs. Bordner (RZ). Pileated were observed: 2 on Credit Island (PCP); at LaPorte City (RH); and Lewis Bottoms (LS). A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker came regularly to a feeder (GdeL).

Jay, Chickadee, Titmouse, Nuthatches, Creeper, Wrens. Few Blue Jays appear to be wintering. The numbers of Chickadees and Titmice at feeders has been down with the latter absent all winter (JR). Fair numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches are reported but those in Sioux City disappeared in mid-November (DH). A pair of Brown Creepers appeared at Sioux Rapids where they were previously not known (EP). Winter Wrens were seen (FK, LS). A Carolina Wren came to a feeder during most of December (LS).

Brown Thrasher, Robin. Several Brown Thrashers were attempting to winter in Des Moines. Robins are wintering as far north as Marble Rock (PK) and Akron (EB), and have been abundant at Lamoni (DG). One seen on 11 February appeared from its plumage to be a migrant (GB). While not an Iowa record, a flock of at least 1,000 at Gavin's Point in Nebraska is noteworthy (DH).

Pipit, Waxwing, Shrike. A Water Pipit was seen in late December (RZ, GdeL). Many observers referred to the abundance of the Cedar Waxwing with the size of flocks as large as 1-200 (HP), and as many as 500 (JF). No one mentioned the Bohemian Waxwing. A Northern Shrike was seen on 3 January by Mrs. Hewitt (RH).

Warblers, Icterids. A Northern Waterthrush at Ames on 21 November was well seen by Nick Osness (RH). There were few reports of wintering blackbirds but a large flock in Polk Co. on 15 February was largely Red-winged of both sexes with a

few Cowbirds and Rusty Blackbirds (HP). A female Baltimore Oriole was found on 29 December but lived only a few hours (DG). Several wintering Grackles are reported from Mason City (MK).

Finches. No flocks of Evening Grosbeaks have appeared; only a few are mentioned (JR, DH, PCP, BH, RH). The number of Purple Finches at any one place also has been small. A Pine Grosbeak in Glendale Cemetery in Des Moines on 4 January was not seen thereafter (RDM). Redpolls have been widespread; as far north as Marble Rock (PK) and Mason City with 200 on 3 January seen by Mrs. Velie (RH) and as far south as Essex (EW) and Lamoni (DG). Red Crossbills, whose early arrival was mentioned in the report on the fall migration, appeared in a number of locations. Numbers varied but there were thought to be at least 100 at Wallingford (CFW) and a similar number at Des Moines (HP). White-winged Crossbills have been at Shenandoah, Davenport, Waterloo, Des Moines, Marshalltown, and Wallingford. With the exception of the last-named location numbers have been small. The flock at Wallingford was estimated to be at least 100 (CFW). A LeConte's Sparrow was seen at Jefferson on 26 December (JF). Tree Sparrows are thought fewer than usual (CFW, JR, FK). There are a few Harris' Sparrows wintering (HP, JK) with more than usual (RX, EB). An occasional White-throated Sparrow is seen (HP, PCP, JK). A Fox Sparrow was found on 7 January in the Yellow River Forest by Mrs. Hewitt (RH). A late Swamp Sparrow was found at the end of January (GB). Longspur reports: good numbers all winter (JR); a few (FK); and some good flocks (PCP); but none all winter which is unusual (DG). Fewer than 10 in a flock of Longspurs in Lyon Co. on 13 January (PDK); a few (FK); several at Shenandoah. With the exception of 50 on 1 February in Hancock Co. (JK) and 75 on 31 January near Muscatine (PCP) most reports of Snow Buntings refer to small numbers with good numbers at Ames (JR).

Observers: Gladys Black, Pleasantville, Wm. Boller, Des Moines, Eldon Bryant, Akron; Genevieve DeLong, Shenandoah; John Faaborg, Ames; Donald Gillaspey, Lamoni; Mrs. Darrell Hanna, Sioux City; Russell Hays, Waterloo; Barbara Henderson, Wellington; Milford Keeler, Mason City; Jim Keenan, Ogden; Fred Kent, Iowa City; P. D. Kline, Indianola; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Peter Lowther, Ames; R. D. Mooney, Des Moines; Ella Parsons, Sioux Rapids; Helen Peasley, Des Moines; P. C. Petersen, Davenport; Jim Rod, Ames; Lillian Serbousek, Cedar Rapids; Mildred Stewart, Grinnell; Elizabeth Walters, Essex; C. F. Wolden, Wallingford; Ruth Zollars, Shenandoah. **WOODWARD H. BROWN,** 4815 Igersoll Ave. Des Moines, 50312.

GENERAL NOTES



The Great Osprey Chase--A Saturday Morning Banding Excursion for hawks led to an interesting sight record and chase experience in the Davenport area. Saturday morning September 13, 1969, Pete Peterson, Bill Lonnecker and I headed northwest from Davenport, Iowa, searching for Sparrow Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks. We had three Bal-Chatr traps. Two were small traps for Sparrow Hawks.

One was primed with a large gray domesticated House Mouse, the other with a very small Gerbil. The third trap was a larger trap for Red-tails containing a larger Gerbil.

After about an hour of driving we encountered five Sparrow Hawks within about a mile radius. After dropping both traps we finally were successful in banding the only bird that dropped on a trap. She was a beautiful female. After banding and a few candid 35mm photographs we released her and headed on west.

About mid-morning we had turned east on a dirt road when Bill spotted a large flock of birds in the distance. As we got closer it became evident that they were harassing a very large hawk. As the distance closed it was clear that the pursuing flock was a group of Starlings. The pursued bird was large but indistinct in the sunlight from the east. The closer we got the more uneasy we became. No one spoke but I'm sure each of us was thinking "That is a mighty big Red-tail". Finally the truth dawned. It was not a Red-tail, it was an Osprey. Twenty miles northwest of Davenport and the Mississippi was an Osprey moving south-west with an entourage of Starlings for a vanguard.

To make a long story short, we followed him for a total of fifty miles in the car. His route was a steady south'westerly line. Ours was a series of jogs and zigs and zags on dirt roads and highways. He covered thirty-five miles (plotted on a map after the chase was over). We intercepted him on his route five or six times. Many times we depended on his direction to find him again since our chase led us out of sight of him much of the time. We always managed to get ahead of his course and he would show up right on schedule, and away we would go again.

He lost his escort after about twenty miles of our chase. He turned westward once along a small stream and the birds were still following. About five miles later when he showed up again they were gone. We noticed other Starlings take up the chase a couple of times, but they fell back and left him after a few minutes.

Positive record of the identification was made several times with the use of Bill Lonneckers motor driven 35mm Nikon with a 1000mm Reflex Nikkor lens. One of these times we were in a position to throw the Bal-Chatrri with the large Gerbil directly in his path. We all were very aware that the bird was a fish hawk, but, with human nature what it is, we could not resist a try. Put yourself in our position. Can you imagine the flap in the world of ornithology if we had recorded banding an Osprey on a Bal-Chatrri on the edge of an Iowa cornfield?

Our last sighting was as he approached the bottom land along the Cedar River. He was headed toward us, but never crossed our road. It was evident that he had stopped to fish or to rest. The visibility was good in all directions so it is extremely doubtful that we missed him.

Since the sighting we have regretted that we did not note the exact time we started the chase and the time we lost sight of him. It would have been possible to compute an average speed, had we done this. We were able to plot his course on a map and we hope to count the number of birds in his escort when enlargements of the pictures are made. Many interesting questions are left to ponder. How long did he have his escort? How long had he been in flight when we encountered him? Did he continue his migration that day? When all was said and done the sighting produced as many questions as answers, but it was an unforgettable experience. We will long remember the Great Osprey Chase. — PHIL FRAZIER, 3100 37th St., Rock Island, Illinois.

An Interesting Great Horned Owl Observation -- In April of 1969 I was discing cornstalks in a neighbor's field. While making the first round around the field I passed a clump of box elder trees from which a young Horned Owl spread his wings and proceeded toward the ground at about a 45 degree angle. Not having mastered alighting the youngster lit with a thud. I approached more closely and noted it was still somewhat downy and not strong enough to fly. In true owl style he glared at me with his bright yellow eyes and tried to appear dangerous by clicking his beak.

As a raccoon has usurped the hollow tree where I usually band Horned Owls I proceeded home to get a band for this fellow. When I returned the owlet was not to be seen. I searched the area carefully and by chance happened to locate this owl well up in one of the trees. This posed an interesting question. This owl was completely incapable of flight and yet he was once again in a tree. It occurred to me that perhaps the adult birds had grasped the young one with their talons and replaced it in the tree. This thought was reinforced by a few feathers scattered in the area which might have been loosened in this process. In this case the adults seemed more concerned than was usually the case when I had checked out their young. They were sitting in a cottonwood about 100 yards distant and were making a most unowl-like sound which clearly denoted worry. When I climbed the tree to try to band it the youngster again tried to fly but again thumped to the ground. I threw my jacket over him to protect myself from that snapping beak and affixed the band and proceeded with my work. A short time later the owl was safely back in one of the trees.

I was obsessed with the idea that the adults were lifting it back into the tree and by the next morning had decided that if this was what was happening it was worth losing some time to see. I flushed him from the tree and was amazed to note that his strength had improved and it was able to flap well enough that it was a full 90 paces to the spot where it lit very ungracefully.

I drove my pickup truck out of sight, approached the farm buildings which were nearby from the other direction and, using the corn crib for a blind, I waited for action. For perhaps thirty minutes the young owl crouched among the cornstalks where his camouflage colors made him most unnoticeable. Finally this owl stood up and for a few minutes looked all around for possible danger and proceeded to walk directly toward the box elder clump where I had found him. He stopped at intervals to survey the area and twice tried to speed things up by flapping his wings. When he reached the clump a hop and a flap started him up the trunk of a sloping tree. He proceeded to climb the tree much like a woodpecker except he had to rely on the strength of his legs and talons to hold himself upright. I was fascinated to learn that at least one young owl's instinct for safety directed him to get into a tree. -- **ELDON J. BRYANT, R.R. 1, Akron**

Winter Birding in Texas--On December 23, 1968, we left Marshalltown for a vacation. We did some birding in Missouri, Arkansas and Eastern Texas, but the real fine days were spent on the Gulf Coast. We visited the Aransas Wildlife Refuge where we saw the Whooping Cranes, many ducks, geese, waders, etc., also Wild Turkey, deer and javalina. The trip continued over to Mustang Island and back to the mainland at Corpus Christi for other shore birds and a short visit with relatives. On Dec. 27 we continued on via Del Rio to Marathon, the jumping-off place to the Big Bend National Park. When we arrived at the Park Headquarters we were directed to Park Officer Jay Jessen's residence where we met our Marshalltown friends, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Grimes, who were spending several weeks with the Jessen family. Mrs. Jessen is their daughter. We really enjoyed the warm

weather there for two days, the first of which was spent with Roy and Helen Grimes on an all day birding trip to the Hot Springs area of the Park. We watched the White-winged Doves, quail and deer as well as several varieties of sparrows at the Jessen's bird feeding station which was about 20 ft. from their picture window. The "high-light" of the trip was the next day, with an assist to the Big Bend Park Naturalist, Roland Wauer, who assigned us to a certain area of the park for the "Official Christmas Bird Census." We had some very different and interesting habitat to cover. It included highland desert, creek area, and a canyon through which the Rio Grand River flowed. Most Iowans were having "winter" we were in our shirt-sleeves. We hated to start back to Iowa. Our list for the day was as follows:

Killdeer	1	Mockingbird	2
White-winged Dove	30	Curved-billed Thrasher	1
Morning Dove	7	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2
Roadrunner	1	Shrike (sp)	1
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Weide's Crested Flycatcher	3	Cardinal	7
Black Phoebe	1	Pyrhuloxia	10
Say's Phoebe	3	Rufous-sided Towhee	1
Raven	3	Black-throated Sparrow	66
Verdin	2	Oregon Junco	30
Cactus Wren	2	Chipping Sparrow	47
Canyon Wren	2	Clay-colored Sparrow	25
Rock Wren	3	White-crowned Sparrow	12

The Rinehart's had a very fine day especially because of the Verdin -- a new species for the life list. Mrs. Grimes was having a different experience -- one in a life time. Two of the Park Officers invited her to accompany them down the Rio Grand in a rubber-raft. It was a memorable occasion for Helen. They saw many shore and water birds as well as many others during the trip.--MR. AND MRS. HOMER RINEHART, Box 291, Marshalltown.

BOOK REVIEWS



The Bobwhite Quail, Its Life and Management -- Walter Rosene -- Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, New Jersey -- 418 p., 65 photographs, 5 color plates, 5 maps and diagrams -- 1969 -- \$20.00.

A long time I. O. U. member who is certainly one of the leading Bobwhite biologists has produced a comprehensive volume on this very well known game bird. The author begins with a discussion of the birds origin, history, classification and distribution. He then covers its breeding, seasonal activities, coveys, food and natural mortality. The methods of accurately measuring the populations and effects of hunting pressure are also detailed. Also mentioned are techniques for maintaining optimum quail habitat including prescribed burning. Much specific research is covered in detail in the appendices. The style is very smooth and the type quite readable. Most of the color plates are wing illustrations which

demonstrate means of aging. The black and white photographs depict various types of habitat. References are placed at the end of each chapter rather than in a single bibliography. The author is a native of Iowa and a graduate of Iowa State University, who has lived in the south for the past thirty-five years. His book will be of special interest to students of wildlife management and anyone interested in developing Bobwhite habitat. ed.

Request for Cattle Egret Records -- A survey of the northward movement of the Cattle Egret is being made to determine the distribution and post breeding movements of this species throughout its range. The following information is requested: Name, address of observers, date, time, number, location of observation (state, nearest town, county and if possible township, range and section), habitat, activities and weather. Please send records and observations to Alan B. Schroeder, Norman Bird Sanctuary, Third Beach Road, Middletown, Rhode Island, 02840.

Cooperators will be sent the proper forms and a report of the results, if requested.

NEW MEMBERS



The I. O. U. begins 1970 with a new life member, Mrs. Edwin G. (Virginia) Crocker of Storm Lake. Other new members for 1970 through March 1 include the following:

Ames Audubon Society, care of Ben Bereskin, 117 S. Russell, Ames, 50000

Mrs. Robert I. Bordner, Jr. -- reinstated, 214 W. State St., Clarinda, 51632

Christopher Brown (Jr.), 305 Hulman Salem Rd., Terre Haute, Ind. 47803

Willard J. Brown, 3714 Kingman Blvd., Des Moines, 50311

Rev. Arthur Campney, 808 E. 14th St. N., Newton, 50208

Mrs. J. W. Clifton -- reinstated, 4845 Kesler Rd. N. W., Cedar Rapids, 52405

Mrs. Gene Deere, 1412 Timberline Dr., Bettendorf, 52722

Hubert Frings, 514 College Ave., Norman Oklahoma, 73069

E. W. Griffith, 4150 Greenwood Dr., Des Moines, 50312

James L. Kelly, 3710 Laurinda Br., Cedar Falls, 50613

Clarence Mortenson, 108 5th North, Northwood, 50459

Miss Arlene Phillips (Jr.), Rt. 2, Pleasantville, 50225

John Van Dyke, Box 296, Sioux Center, 51250

New Subscriptions:

Decorah Public Library, 202 Winnebago St., Decorah, 52101

Library, Indiana State University, Evansville Campus, Evansville, Indiana 47712

Kendall Young Library, 1201 Wilson, Webster City, 50595

COVER

We are indebted to David Henderson of Columbus, Ohio, for the striking Great Horned Owl for the 1970 covers. Dave is the author of the **Guide to Ohio Birds** reviewed in the Sept. 1969 issue of **Iowa Bird Life**. ed.